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The Ambassador

Calvin C. Clegg
Legal Attache

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BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINE BORDER ACTIVITY

A source familiar with Brazilian intelligence activities and who has furnished reliable information in the past confided as follows:

Of great concern to the Brazilian military are those Brazilian terrorists and militant left-wing leaders who fled Brazil in the late 1960's and early 1970's, re-established themselves in Argentina with existing Argentine terrorist groups, and are currently fleeing the stepped-up anti-terrorist campaigns of the newly installed Argentine Government. (U)

These Brazilian elements, not finding Argentina the one-time haven for their activities, are slipping back into Brazil in alarming numbers. The logical fear of the Brazilian military is that these returning figures, if not identified and detained, may utilize their acquired expertise in front-line terrorist engagements against targets within Brazil. (U)

With intentions of curbing the problem, the Brazilian military has entered into understood and undocumented agreements with Argentina whereby these countries are jointly undertaking whatever means necessary to track down, detain, and eliminate terrorists attempting escape from Argentina. In the past two months, a number of known terrorists have been killed on both sides of the Brazilian border by Brazilian and Argentine troops. These deaths have received no publicity. Brazilian and Argentine military have cooperated to such a degree as to have operated in coordination with one another, and even inside each other's border when the need arose. (X) (X) (X) (U)

The two governments' efforts have been termed "successful" but the prevailing fear lingers that too many are successfully reentering Brazil due to the problems encountered in covering the extensive border. (X) (U)

- 1 - Addressee
- cc: Mr. Johnson
- Mr. Simcox, POL
- Mr. Kiyonaga, PSS
- Col. Giles, DAO
- 3 - Brasilia (109-1) (P)
- (cc: 109-17; 80-64)
- CCC:fo
- (8)

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C. Clegg
& C. Kiyonaga
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